

HARRISON NARCOTIC LAW.

Many letters are still being received asking what a physician may or may not do under the Harrison law. As a matter of fact, the law has in no way invaded the rights of the physician; it has only said that he must not be sloppy about his records, and this is a good thing. Too many physicians are too careless about keeping records of anything relating to their work, and this the JOURNAL has deplored on more than one occasion. You can prescribe any narcotic you think necessary, but you must have registered with the collector of internal revenue and obtained a license; *and* you must put the date, patient's name and your own name in full, on the prescription, together with your license number. It has been ruled that by "name in full" is meant the signature which you ordinarily use to sign legal documents, checks, etc. If you wish to buy narcotic preparations covered by the law to dispense or to use in your practice, you must obtain them on an official blank which the collector sells for one dollar a hundred. If you give away or dispense any of such preparations, you must keep a record of the date and amount and the name of the patient and preserve this for two years. All of which seems to work no hardship upon the physician and indeed is a help, for he now has the assurance that his prescriptions will not be refilled. Elsewhere we publish an abstract of the rulings of the Commissioner on various points of the law. Undoubtedly many of these rulings will be more or less modified as time goes by and it is found how they work. In the main, they seem to be not unjust or too stringent and it will not be long before we all get the habit of following them. They will do us no harm whatever.

INDUSTRIAL SICKNESS INSURANCE.

The JOURNAL pointed out some time ago that, in all probability, a law would be passed in this state, before very long, extending compulsory insurance to disease on very much the same lines as it now applies to industrial accidents. That movement has already begun in the passage of an amendment to the present industrial accident law making it include industrial diseases as well as accidents. How these diseases shall be catalogued—what shall be and what shall not be considered an industrial disease—is, of course, a matter for future study and adjustment by the commission. As a sociologic problem, the whole question of whether or not such industrial legislation is in the main good or bad, is too large to discuss. In the past, judging from a few centuries of development, it would seem that all sumptuary laws tend not to the betterment of the race; nature seems to work things out better, if you give her enough centuries to do it in, if left alone. But then it may be maintained that man's modification or control of the development of man is merely an expression of the working out of nature as found in the mental development of the genus homo. Be that as it may, the present trend is toward radical changes and big, new movements; one of these is the attempt to regulate pauperism and poverty and the

burdens that accompany, by such laws as the industrial accident law, the workmen's compensation phase of it, the pension of widowed mothers, and the like. A logical extension of this movement or stress, if you please, is the sickness insurance, compulsory within certain incomes, and this we may confidently expect to see before many years have gone by, or else all signs fail. We might as well be ready for it.

MEDICAL MILK COMMISSIONS.

The American Association of Medical Milk Commissions will hold its annual meeting this year in San Francisco, June 17th and in Berkeley June 18th; on June 19th the Commissions will meet on Mt. Tamalpais. There will be a large number of the most prominent enthusiasts for pure milk the country over, in attendance, and it is expected that this will be one of the most satisfactory meetings the Association has ever held. Dr. T. C. McCleave, of Berkeley, California, is President of the Association.

SENATORIAL SENSE.

Elsewhere in this number of the JOURNAL we publish a transcript of some of the remarks of Senator Benson in discussing one of the medical bills before the lately demised and not lamented legislature. Doubtless many of the solons who stand in support of poor and lower medical laws are as well acquainted with the facts as Senator Benson, but they play the game of votes and peanut politics; talk large on things about which they know better, and so conceal the real issue. At any rate, it is a pleasure to see a man have the courage of his convictions and a willingness to come forward and tell straight out what he knows and knows to be the truth. We desire to extend our thanks and the thanks of the Society to Senator Benson, and all the other members of the legislature who stood for sound medical legislation.

THE DETAIL MAN—AN ECONOMIC WASTE.

"The Passing of the Detail Man," which appeared in the advertiser's column of the CALIFORNIA STATE JOURNAL OF MEDICINE, March 1915, deals with but one phase of the situation—the physician's viewpoint. The criticisms offered naturally have come from the manufacturer and his agent. The manufacturer and his agent, however, must soon awaken to the fact that the conditions which made the detail man a profitable propagandist are now radically changed. The advancement of educational standards; the continual exposure of proprietary and medical frauds; keen competition, and the general disposition to discredit commercial exponents of therapeutic virtues, all tend to make the detail man's life a burden. This is particularly the case in our large cities.

In order to gain an audience the detail man must have some excuse for calling. He cannot with propriety assume to take up the physician's time without something compensatory in his visit. The manufacturer is well aware of this and he is constantly devising "something new" to aid the